

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1-4. (canceled).
5. (currently amended): A radially self-expanding stent for implantation in a body passage comprises first and second sets of mutually counter-rotating metallic filaments which are braided together and define a tubular stent body having two ends which is mechanically biased towards a first radially expanded configuration in which it is unconstrained by externally applied forces and can be retained in a second radially compressed configuration, and in which some or all of the filament ends at the ends of the body are fixed together in pairs each consisting of counter-rotating filaments by placing the filaments over one another and placing them adjacent to and substantially parallel to one another and further comprising a join at each end fixing to retain the ends of the filaments in contact with one another, wherein some but not all of the filament ends are welded, the joins ~~extending outward radially~~ are positioned radially outward from a main body of the stent.
6. (original): A stent according to claim 5, wherein the join generally has a diameter of at least 1.2 times that of the diameter of the filament.

7. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 5, wherein the diameter of the join is no more than 3 times the diameter of the filament.

8. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 5, wherein at least some of the joins provide a shoulder in a rearward axial direction.

9-11. (canceled).

12. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 5, wherein the diameter of the join is less than 2.5 times the diameter of the filament.

13. (canceled).

14. (currently amended): A stent according to Claim 5, wherein the filaments bend outward and an angle at which the ~~joins~~ filaments bend outward increases as the filaments extend toward the join.

15. (currently amended): A stent according to Claim 14, wherein the increase in the angle at which the ~~joins~~ filaments bend outward as the filaments extend towards the joins is between 10 and 15°.